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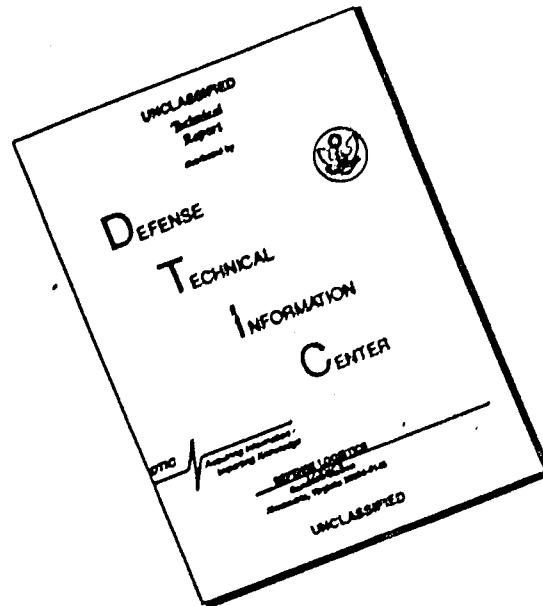
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (20 Feb 69) FOR OT UT 684198

5 March 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1968 (U)

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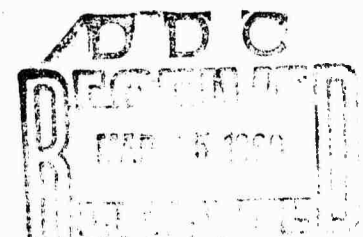
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3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry

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HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 Oct 68

AVGC-BA

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSPCR-65(R1)(UIC-WAAMAA)

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SECTION 1 Significant Activities

1. (U) INTRODUCTION:

(a) MISSION: The squadron's basic mission has been that of providing reconnaissance, surveillance, security and economy of force support.

(b) ORGANIZATION: The squadron is organized under TOE 17-95T dated June 1965 and USARPAC General Order 401 dated August 1968. In addition RL/KD teams are attached (1 per air cavalry troop) by 12th Group General Order 55 dated July 1968 and General Order 60 dated August 1968. The current organization structure and unit locations are listed in inclosures 1 and 2.

2. (FOUO) PERSONNEL:

(a) PERSONNEL CHANGES: Following is the command group and principle staff as of October 31, 1968 with the changes during the period.

HEADQUARTERS 3D SQUADRON 17TH AIR CAVALRY

LTC JOHN H. PHILLIPS	CO		
MAJ EUGENE S. PEDRICK	XO	Replaced LTC Evans J. Guidroz	11Aug68
MAJ BURNETT R. SANDERS II	S3	Replaced MAJ Nathan M. Palliam	10Sep68
CPT ROLAND O. LEEDS	S1	Replaced MAJ Gary E. Luck	4Sep68
CPT FRANK G. EMMONS	S4	Replaced CPT Winfried Barthmus	7Oct68
CPT JOHN H. POPE	HMT CO	Replaced CPT Harvey E. Turner	11Aug68
MAJ GEORGE KUNTZ	MAINT OFF	Replaced MAJ Charles W. Edmond	26Oct68
MAJ JOHN D. JENKS	A Trp CO		
MAJ WALLACE R. NAPIER	B Trp CO	Replaced MAJ James T. McMannus	6Sep68
MAJ DAVID E. THOMPSON	B Trp CO	Replaced MAJ John P. Doyle	10Oct68

7/1

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron (7th Cavalry)
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65(R1) (UIC-1A4AAA)

MAJ JERRY E. LEADABRAND	C Trp CO	
CPT STEPHEN N. GEHLER	D Trp CC	Replaced Joseph P. Seery 100 Oct 68
MAJ CHARLES GRIM	576th TC CO	Assumed Command 16 Oct 68

(b) UNIT STRENGTHS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1968: The squadron is authorized 104 officers of which 102 are on hand, 135 Warrant Officers with 100 present, and 1028 enlisted men with 943 on hand (See Inclosure 3).

(c) INFUSION: The infusion program for this squadron for the quarter consisted of nine (9) outgoing officers replaced by nine (9); eight (8) outgoing Warrant Officers replaced by seven (7), and eight (8) enlisted men replaced by seven (7).

(d) AWARDS AND DECORATION: Total of 1602 awards recommended during the quarter of which 409 are pending approval (See Inclosure 4).

(e) FRIENDLY LOSSES: Friendly losses for the quarter totaled 9 KIA, 45 WIA, with no personnel MIA (See Inclosure 5).

3. (C) INTELLIGENCE: The squadron has conducted extensive aerial reconnaissance and surveillance, providing the various control headquarters with valuable information concerning the enemy, his movement, and his logistics. Lines of communication from War Zone C, Ba Thu (XS 2703) and the Boi Loi Woods were continually monitored and interdicted. Constant surveillance and reconnaissance of known and suspected enemy LOC's and concentration areas within the Saigon area were maintained. The information gathered provided intelligence which was the basis for airstrikes, arclights and ground operations.

(a) Terrain: The general area of operation of the squadron elements extended from the Cambodian border on the west and northwest, the Saigon River on the northeast and east, and the Vam Co Tay River on the south.

(1) Observation and Fields of Fire: Observation and Fields of Fire ranged from extremely limited in the Boi Loi Woods and western War Zone C areas, to excellent in the Hau Nghia swamp area, west of Saigon, and the Trang Bang corridor (XT 5318).

(2) Obstacles: Neither natural nor artificial obstacles in the TAOB had any effect on squadron operations.

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for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (UIC-
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(3) Cover and Concealment: The enemy has excellent concealment in wooded areas; his cover is limited to the tunnel complexes and bunkers. Throughout the intermediate base camp areas, in the Pineapple area, and along the Vam Co Dong River the enemy has available extensive tunnel and bunker complexes. In other areas the enemy has the cover he constructs at night. While rudimentary, it effectively gives him cover from observation and direct fire weapons including gunships. The enemy has outstanding natural concealment in the Boi Loi Woods, War Zone C and the Straight Edge Woods areas. Within these areas the enemy is relatively safe from detection. The hours of darkness provide the VC/NVA with natural concealment from visual aerial observation. During daylight hours VC/NVA movement is generally restricted to the areas mentioned above. In the terrain south of Saigon, he uses the numerous hedgerows and heavily vegetated streamlines for concealment.

(4) Key Terrain: Highway 1 and Highway 4 were selected as key terrain because of the significance of these arteries to military and commercial traffic.

(5) Avenues of Approach: The following VC/NVA lines of communications and avenues of approach in the squadron TAOR are considered significant:

(a) The Parrot's Beak (XS 3192), Bo Bo Canal, Pineapple (XS 5890), Saigon.

(b) Ba Thu (XT 2703), My Thang Dong (XT 4402), Tan Nhut (XS 7083), Saigon.

(c) Angel's Wing (XT 3113), An Ninh (XT 4013), Hau Nghia Swamp, Saigon.

(d) Angel's Wing/Ba Thu, Vam Co Dong River, Pineapple, Saigon.

(e) Fish Hook (XT 5890), Michelin Plantation, Boi Loi Woods, Saigon River, Binh My (XT 5318), Saigon.

(f) North - South LCC (Trang Bang Corridor)-Boi Loi Woods (XT 5232), An Cuc (XT 5318), Hiep Hoa (XT 4609), Ba Thu.

(6) Weather: Visibility was frequently limited by precipitation and localized fog areas. The intensity and scale of late afternoon and early evening rain squalls sometimes hampered operations in the TAOR. In October early morning fog became an increasingly significant factor. Approximately 12 times during the month first light operations were postponed because of limited visibility. The rainfall was unusually high during this monsoon period. The frequent afternoon and early evening rainshowers often extended throughout most of the night. Temperatures during this period ranged from an early morning low in the 70's to afternoon highs in the 90's 3

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for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOT 65 (RI) (UIC-
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(7) Summary: The squadron began this period concentrating its efforts on finding enemy rocket locations in the Saigon area. After the 3d offensive began in Tay Ninh province two air cavalry troops were oriented to that area in order to locate the enemy, perform screening missions and convoy security. For the remainder of the period squadron elements were providing aerial visual reconnaissance in all operational areas. Additionally, elements provided daily convoy security in both Tay Ninh province and the Saigon area. The troops habitually interdicted LOCs of the enemy and located enemy units, providing the control headquarters with valuable information on which to base immediate and future operations. Unique techniques used to gather intelligence consisted of Starlight/Firefly mission, CS Grenade drops, and airborne checkpoints.

4. (C) OPERATIONS: The 3/17 Cav area of operations was primarily in the central and western areas of III Corps Tactical Zone (See Inclosure 6). The squadron with troops OPCON to several units during this reporting period, conducted reconnaissance, security, surveillance and economy of force operations throughout the major portion of III Corps Tactical Zone. The general area of operation of the squadron elements extended from the Cambodian border on the west and northwest, the Saigon River on the northeast and east, and the Vam Co Tay River on the south. At the start of this reporting period B Troop 7/1 and B Troop 3/17 based at Dian were OPCON to Capital Military Assistance Command (CMAC). B Troop 7/1 supported CMAC by flying counter rocket/mortar surveillance around the city of Saigon, armed visual reconnaissance, riverine and convoy escort, and aerial checkpoint operations (ACP). Aerial checkpoints consist of inserting elements of the aero-rifle platoon accompanied by National Police near groups of suspicious personnel to check their identification. On 18 August 68, B Troop, 3/17 became OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division with forward base of operations at Tay Ninh. A Troop 3/17, based at Long Binh with the forward CP at Tan An remained OPCON to the 9th Infantry Division. C Troop based at Dian with their forward CP at Cu Chi was OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division. D Troop 3/17, with forward base of operations at Cu Chi, remained OPCON to F Company, (LRRP), 51st Infantry as a ready reaction force.

SPECIFIC OPERATIONS:

(a) AUGUST: 1 August B Troop 3/17 inserted their aero-rifle platoon to recon the area vicinity AT 7607. The operation resulted in two (2) POW, one (1) AK-47, two (2) 9mm pistols and $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of documents.

(b) On 2 August A Troop 3/17 remained OPCON to the 9th Infantry Division for operation Complete Victory in the area south and west of Saigon. From 1930 to 2400 hours A Troop conducted a "Firefly" mission along the waterways in the 9th Division area of operations resulting in (6) sampans destroyed and twelve (12) VC KBA.

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for period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (UEB-
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(c) D Troop 3/17 OPCON to F Company, 51st Infantry (IRBP) for operations Complete Victory engaged an estimated VC platoon on 3 August, east of Bien Hoa, resulting in ten (10) VC KIA possible and three (3) friendlies WIA (minor).

(d) On 8 August, A Troop 3/17 conducted a "Firefly" mission commencing at 0400 hours along the Vam Co Tay River. They destroyed two (2) sampans and killed four (4) VC. D Troop 3/17 conducted four (4) fifteen (15) man ambush patrols in their area of operation with no enemy contact. One (1) truck was stopped and searched and two (2) ARVN deserters were captured.

(e) On 11 August, C Troop conducted armed visual reconnaissance in the 25th Infantry Division area of operations. The aero-rifle platoon came under enemy fire after being inserted at coordinates XT 730166. The aero-rifle platoon was credited with six (6) VC KIA. C Troop 3/17 in support of the insertion was credited with three (3) VC KBA.

(f) On 13 August, A Troop made contact in vicinity of XS 7054 while providing armed visual reconnaissance for the 9th Infantry Division. Ground units were deployed to surround the enemy. A Troop 3/17 remained in support throughout the day and was credited with twenty five (25) VC KBA's, two (2) detainees and two (2) structures destroyed.

(g) On 18 August, A Troop conducted armed visual reconnaissance and inserted the aero-rifle platoon twice. The troop had three (3) aircraft, two (2) AH-1G's and one (1) OH-6A downed as a result of the action in the vicinity of XS 766699. B Troop 3/17 was released from OPCON CMAC and assigned to OPCON 25th Infantry Division.

(h) On 19 August, A Troop 3/17 inserted their aero-rifles at 1425 hours, resulting in ten (10) Hoi Chanhs being captured at coordinates XS 825850. There was one (1) friendly WIA. While on a general armed visual recon around Tay Ninh, C Troop 3/17 made contact with the enemy resulting in five (5) KBA. B Troop 7/1 conducted aerial checkpoints in the CMAC area of operation and checked out fifty four (54) Vietnamese personnel with the aid of an interpreter and national policeman. As a result B Troop 7/1 detained one (1) suspected draft dodger.

(i) On 24 August, A Troop 3/17 conducted armed visual reconnaissance throughout the 9th Infantry Division area of operations. A Troop 3/17 spotted ten (10) VC and engaged with aero weapons resulting in ten (10) VC KBA and two (2) bunkers destroyed. B Troop 3/17 conducting armed visual reconnaissance noted fresh signs of enemy activity along the Oriental River near the Cambodian border. That same day an AH-1G from B 3/17 was damaged as the result of a secondary explosion from a sampan it was attacking.

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(j) On 26 August, A Troop scouts located an ammo cache 10 miles west of Saigon. The aero-rifle platoon was inserted and found 72 RPG-2 rounds and 100 rounds of 30 caliber ammunition.

(k) On 27 August, A Troop supported elements of the 9th Infantry Division in contact southwest of Can Giouc in the vicinity of XS 8070. A Troop 3/17 was credited with eleven (11) KBA, one (1) possible KBA, and seventeen (17) structures destroyed. C Troop 3/17 performed visual recon in vicinity of the Michelin Plantation, XT 5553, and extracted a LRRP team in contact resulting in one (1) KBA, two (2) possibles. B Troop provided company escort on 27 August from Tay Ninh to Dau Tieng. Enemy contact was made and followed by aerial attack. Fifteen (15) KBA's were credited to B 3/17 in this engagement.

(l) On 28 August, scouts from B Troop 3/17 located a company sized enemy element at grid coordinates XT 122591. The NVA were engaged resulting in fifteen (15) KBA and two (2) possible.

(m) On 30 August, southwest of Rach Kien at grid XS 7065 Troop A scouts captured one (1) VC who directed them to numerous other VC in the area. The troop killed thirteen (13) VC and captured one (1) POW, one (1) chi com machine gun, one (1) RPG launcher and two (2) RPG rounds. Two (2) OH6A's and one (1) AH-1G received hits.

(n) SEPTEMBER: On 3 September 1968 a convoy was ambushed at grid XT 461448; a hunter killer team (AH-1G and OH-6A) from B Troop 3/17 was called in and supported the ground elements until contact was broken. The troop accounted for 6 KBA's.

(o) On 4 September, B Troop 3/17, while performing visual reconnaissance in the vicinity of Tay Ninh and along the main supply routes from Tay Ninh to Dau Tieng, made contact and were credited with nine (9) VC KBA, four (4) possible and two (2) structures destroyed. The same day B Troop 7/1 supported the 5th ARVN Battalion and the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in separate actions. The two missions resulted in fifteen (15) KBA and six (6) medevac support missions. B Troop 7/1 performed aerial checkpoint missions resulting in four (4) detainees and one (1) POW. Elements of B Troop sighted a group of VC in the vicinity of XS 806748. They were engaged by the gunship, resulting in five (5) VC KBA.

(p) On 5 September, A Troop working with the 9th Infantry Division east of Rach Kien at coordinates XS 545648 located a bunker with recent camouflage. In subsequent action, to include a platoon sweep by A Troop 3/17, the troop was credited with twelve (12) VC KBA, one (1) POW, one (1) AK-47 and 3000 pounds of rice captured.

(q) On 6 September, B Troop 7/1 performed aerial checkpoint missions. They executed ten (10) infantry platoon insertions resulting in the capture of six (6) detainees.

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(e) On 7 September, A Troop discovered numerous bunkers and received fire north of Tan Tru at XS 745637. The weapons section engaged and the rifle platoon was inserted to sweep the area with elements of the 9th Infantry Division. Enemy losses totaled twenty nine (29) VC KIA, one (1) 9mm pistol and one (1) AK-47 captured.

(f) On 8 September, C Troop 3/17 supported the Regional Forces in the vicinity of XT 3825 near Go Dau Ha. One (1) AH-1G was hit. The actions resulted in twenty six (26) VC KBA.

(g) In a two day action north of Ben Luc in the vicinity XS6280 beginning on the 10th of September, Troop A killed Twenty nine (29) VC, captured one (1) POW and directed elements of the 9th Infantry Division to a cache of ninety six (96) AK-47 rifles.

(h) On 16 September, while performing a screening mission for a ground element, gunships of B Troop 7/1 made contact with a VC force at coordinates XS 7583. The enemy was engaged with rockets and mini-guns resulting in two (2) VC KBA and two (2) VC WIA.

(i) On 19 September, B Troop 7/1 executed twenty (20) aerial checkpoints and insertions in the CMAC area of operations, checked out one hundred and eleven (111) Vietnamese and detained fourteen (14).

(j) On 22 September, two platoons of D Troop supporting F Company 51st Infantry were inserted at XT 6431 to conduct a sweep to the south. Engagement netted two (2) VC KIA, two (2) VC WIA and one (1) pistol captured.

(k) On 23 September, A Troop 3/17 conducted an aerial reconnaissance in the western portion of their area of operations in the vicinity of XS 4570 in direct support of an infantry unit in contact. A Troop 3/17 was credited with four (4) VC KBA, fifteen (15) sampans and thirty five (35) structures destroyed. One (1) AH-1G was hit by ground fire, however, damage was light. On the same day C Troop scouts found signs of recent activity, vicinity XT 7010. Further development of the situation resulted in three (3) VC KBA, six (6) fifty five (55) gallon drums of rice and one (1) VC flag captured. B Troop 7/1 made seven (7) insertions on an aerial checkpoint mission, checked out fifty four (54) personnel resulting in one (1) detainee.

(l) On 1 October 1968, B Troop 7/1 while OFCON to CMAC was diverted to a ground unit in contact at XS 5790. As a result of the action B Troop was credited with seven (7) KBA and fourteen (14) possible for the days action. Two (2) OH-6A's and two (2) AH-1G's took hits. A scout observer was fatally wounded in the action.

(a) OCTOBER: On 5 October, C Troop 3/17 hunter-killer team conducted a visual recon in the vicinity of XT 4933 when the OH-6A received thirty three (33) hits and crashed in the vicinity of XT 48 19. Three (3) WIA crew members were successfully medevaced.

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(b) On 6 October, while A Troop was conducting visual reconnaissance north of Tan An in the vicinity of XS5770, a scout observer was hit in the leg by enemy fire. In the contact that followed, A Troop 3/17 was credited with nine (9) VC KBA.

(c) On 8 October, Troop A was working west of Tan An with elements of the 9th Infantry Division. As a result of the action thirty one (31) VC were killed, fourteen (14) sampans destroyed and six (6) AK-47's captured. A Troop had an OH-6A shot down in the vicinity of XS 4869. The aircraft crashed in the Sang Tam Co Tay River; the Pilot escaped but the observer was KIA (drowned).

(d) On 9 October, D Troop made contact with an undetermined number of VC in the vicinity of XT 4503 who opened up with 50 caliber, AK-47 and 60mm mortar fire. Results were three (3) VC KBA and thirty (30) gas masks captured.

(e) On 10 October, D Troop 3/17 made an insertion west of the Song Vam So Daug River at coordinates XT 420075. Results of this operation were seventeen (17) detainees and two (2) VC KIA possible.

(f) On 11 October an A Troop scout received fire while checking out a bunker complex south of Rach Kien at coordinates XT 7564. AH-1J's of A Troop struck the area and called in airstrikes; elements of the 9th Infantry Division were inserted to sweep the area. A Troop gunships were credited with twenty two (22) VC KBA. The same day DiAn base camp came under a mortar attack. The 3/17 Squadron received twelve (12) rounds of 82mm mortar at 0025 hours. One of the rounds hit the Commanding Officer's Quarters and two (2) hit the Squadron Headquarters building resulting in three (3) personnel WIA.

(g) On 12 October, B Troop 7/1 aero-rifle platoon checked out two (2) sampans in the vicinity of XT 7706 resulting in one (1) detainee. While on a RAG (Riverine Assault Group) boat escort at 1900 hours in the vicinity of XS 556812 B Troop 7/1 destroyed two (2) sampans resulting in six (6) KBA. The VC in the sampans were carrying weapons but none were recovered.

(h) On 13 October, while making a sweep at XT 463045 D Troop 3/17 captured five (5) B-40 rounds, sixty nine (69) 82mm mortar rounds, thirteen (13) 107mm recoilless rifle fuzes, eighteen (18) charges for an 82mm mortar, fourteen (14) mortar rounds, two (2) 120mm mortar rounds and destroyed fifteen (15) booby traps.

(i) On 22 October, A Troop 3/17 made contact with an unknown size enemy force south of Tan An, vicinity XS 5560. The outcome of the days contact resulted in twenty one (21) VC KBA, nineteen (19) sampans destroyed, fourteen (14) structures destroyed and three (3) detainees.

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(j) On 24 October, C Troop scouts spotted six (6) to ten (10) ox carts full of rice in the vicinity of XT 5524. Aero-rifles were inserted to check the area. Bags of rice were engaged with small arms resulting in secondary explosions.

(k) On 25 October, A Troop 3/27 on a visual reconnaissance reported two (2) VC KBA and one (1) POW with a rocket launcher and 9mm pistol at coordinates XT 672582.

(l) On 27 October, A Troop 3/17 scout teams performed armed visual reconnaissance in the vicinity of XS 740695 and XS 790695 resulting in one (1) KBA. At coordinates XS 771710 A Troop 3/17 reported ten (10) VC KBA and one (1) KBA at XS 657595. Body count for the day totaled thirteen (13) VC KBA.

(m) SUMMARY: While flying 31,352 sorties the squadron lifted 13,352 troops and 92 tons of cargo, was credited with 1025 enemy KIA, 711 structures destroyed and 347 sampans destroyed (See Inclosure 7). During the quarter the squadron was engaged in numerous small scale operations. Visual reconnaissance was the primary mission; however, there has been an increase in convoy escort, direct combat support (ie movement of personnel equipment and supplies) riverine escort and PSYOPS operations.

(n) TRAINING: During this reporting period, the squadron has had maximum participation in all allocated school courses. All new in-country replacements received training at the 1st Infantry Division Replacement Training Center, located at DiAn.

(1) All training within the squadron was conducted with no loss in the operational status of the unit.

- (2) 1. Training days 0
- 2. Tactical movements 0
- 3. Operational days 90

(3) School quotas filled by squadron during the period:

OH-6A Airframe	10
T-63 Engine	12
T-53-L-13 Engine	3
Supply Course	1
Escape and Evasion Course	4
Pilots Transition/Gunnery	2
Armament Maintenance Course	2
UH-1H Course	2
In-Country Replacement Training	180

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for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (UIC-
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5. (C) LOGISTICS

(a) Ammunition expenditure during the period 1 August to 31 October 1968. Figures shown include B Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

TYPE AMMUNITION	ROUNDS EXPENDED
Ctg. 00&06 Bucket	710
Ctg. 5.56mm ball & tracer	79,131
Ctg. 7.62mm LKD 4-1	292,407
Ctg. 7.62mm LKD Tracer	9,800
Ctg. 7.62mm 4-1	1,388,539
Ctg. Cal. 30 Ball	1,780
Ctg. Cal. 38 Special	2,650
Ctg. Cal. 45	5,100
Ctg. Cal. 50 Ball	69
Cal. 50 Spotter	50
40mm M406	2,800
40mm XM384E1	38,526
Gre Frag	1,956
Gre Inc	181
Gren Smoke, All colors	3,234
Gren WP	914
Gren Riot CS	561
Rockets 2.75 inch	23,901
Heat, law	66
Mine, Claymore	145
Sig, Illum, A/C, SS-yel	48
Sig, Illum, Gd-Clus, RS	5
Sig, Illum, A/C, SS-Grw	94
Sig, Illum White Star, Para	665
Flare, A/C Para	156
Flare, Surface, Trip	45
Riot, Control, Clus, Cannister	6

(b) AIRCRAFT STATUS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1968: The squadron including B 7/1 is authorized 37 UH-1H of which 29 are on hand; 40 OH-6A of which 40 are on hand and 36 AH-1G with 36 on hand (See Inclosure 8).

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AVCCL-BA

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RGS CSFOR 60(H) 100-1000000

SECTION 2

Lessons Learned

Commander's observations, evaluations, and recommendations.

1. (U) PERSONNEL:

(a) OBSERVATION: The air cavalry troop under the existing TOE is authorized one (1) wheel vehicle mechanic and two (2) light truck drivers.

EVALUATION: The maintenance requirements resulting from the 22 vehicles in the troop has proven to be beyond the capability of the authorized manpower level.

RECOMMENDATION: The troop be authorized one (1) SSG E5 wheel mechanic and two (2) additional E-4 wheel vehicle mechanics in addition to the existing TOE.

(b) OBSERVATION: Need for additional ammunition handlers.

EVALUATION: Due to the large quantities of ammunition expended by the squadron (see para 5, logistics) and the requirement for 24 hour operation, personnel must be diverted from primary duty positions to perform duty as ammunition handlers. Each air cavalry troop is authorized two (2) ammunition specialists and two (2) apprentices by USARPAC G3# 401 dated August 1968. These personnel are utilized to maintain basic loads, transport and breakdown troop allocations, and man forward troop rearming points. There are no personnel currently authorized at squadron level to pick up ammunition at supply points, transport it to ammunition points and prepare it for use.

RECOMMENDATION: That an ammunition section (assigned to S-4) be authorized for the Air Cavalry Squadron. Section consists of one E-5 Ammunition Storage Specialist (MOS 55B20), and four (4) E-3 Ammo Storage Apprentices (MOS 55A10)

2. (C) OPERATIONS:

(a) OBSERVATION: VC/NVA infiltrators are well trained in camouflage techniques.

EVALUATION: As enemy troops infiltrate they make every effort to conceal themselves and their positions with freshly cut foliage. Experience has shown that the amount of camouflage utilized has a direct relation to the number of enemy troops in the area.

RECOMMENDATION: Observer training places additional emphasis on enemy camouflage techniques so as to fully exploit the capabilities of visual reconnaissance.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (UIC-11.1.1)

(b) **OBSERVATION:** Vulnerability of the OH-6A at low airspeed/altitude in the reconnaissance role.

EVALUATION: Past experience has shown initial reconnaissance of an area at air speeds of less than 70 knots results in excessive aircraft damage due to enemy fire.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That scout tactical training emphasize high speed (70 knots or more) initial passes through the area of interest prior to initiating detailed reconnaissance.

(c) **OBSERVATION:** Time consuming procedures in obtaining firing clearance.

EVALUATION: The time lapse between initial sightings of enemy and the resulting clearance to fire has enabled many VC/NVA personnel to take evasive action and break contact.

RECOMMENDATION: That a more effective and efficient system for obtaining firing clearance be devised.

3. (U) TRAINING:

OBSERVATION: Unit transitional training problems.

EVALUATION: Due to the lack of qualified OH-6A aviators, units must transition personnel into this aircraft to fill vacancies in the scout platoon. This transition requires an instructor pilot and aircraft be diverted from tactical missions for training purposes. A minimum of 10 hours of dual flight, an examination, and a final check ride are required to meet qualification requirements set down by regulation. Experience has shown the necessity for approximately 40 additional hours before the aviator is fully operational. This training burden creates adverse affects upon the tactical capabilities of the Air Cavalry Squadron.

RECOMMENDATION: That a proportionate number of OH-6A aviators be assigned to the Air Cavalry Squadron to fill the authorized aviator positions of the Air Cavalry Troop Scout Platoons.

4. (U) INTELLIGENCE:

OBSERVATION: Requirement for rapid and efficient intelligence processing at the troop level.

EVALUATION: One of the cavalry's primary missions is providing timely intelligence. The air cavalry troop's reconnaissance efforts generate a tremendous amount of intelligence. The gathering, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence is presently the responsibility of troop operations personnel. To insure efficient evaluation and processing requires an officer with the primary duty of coordinating intelligence activities.

RECOMMENDATION: One armor officer (may be non-rated) be assigned as Intelligence Officer at the troop level.

5. (U) LOGISTICS:

AVGC-Ba

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65(R1) (UIC-WAAMMA)

(a) OBSERVATION: The need exists for a better defensive weapon for use by the observer in the OH-6A.

EVALUATION: The CAR-15 rifle is an excellent weapon choice due to its size and firepower and the limited cockpit area in the OH-6A.

RECOMMENDATION: The air cavalry troop be authorized ten (10) CAR-15 rifles per scout platoon in place of the M-16.

(b) OBSERVATION: There is no authorization for "Tail Rotor Tracking Kits" for the OH-6A in the air cavalry troop.

EVALUATION: The lack of tracking kits causes maintenance delays. The Hughes Technical Representative must be called for maintenance involving the tail rotor since he possesses the only kit. Maintenance delays increase downtime and decreases aircraft availability.

RECOMMENDATION: That the OH-6A "Tail Rotor Tracking Kit" be authorized and issued to the air cavalry squadron on the basis of one per air cavalry troop.

(c) OBSERVATION: The arrival of maintenance units in RVN improperly and inadequately equipped.

EVALUATION: Each item of equipment authorized maintenance teams should be on hand upon arrival in RVN since these units are required to become operational immediately.

RECOMMENDATION: That all authorized maintenance tool sets and equipment be inventoried prior to departure from CONUS. A DA Form 2765 should be prepared for each item short and submitted immediately upon entry in country.

(d) OBSERVATION: Air Cavalry Squadron Troops should be issued the VRC-24 radios which are authorized by TOE.

EVALUATION: A UHF radio is a vital part of the air cavalry troop operations center. A capability to monitor UHF traffic by operations personnel will relieve overcrowded FM nets and prevent unnecessary repetition of messages on FM by tactical aircraft. This radio provides back-up to the FM tactical net and its range capability is invaluable due to the squadron dispersion.

RECOMMENDATION: That whatever means necessary be taken to supply the air cavalry squadron with authorized VRC-24 radios.

6. (U) ORGANIZATION: None

7. (U) OTHER: None

AVGC-Ba

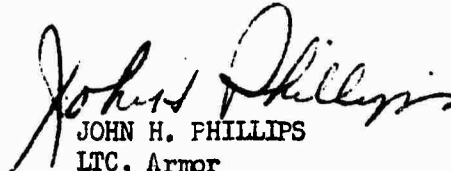
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65(R1) (UIC-WAAMAA)

SECTION 3
Escape and Evasion

This unit had no personnel involved in an escape and evasion situation
this quarter.

8 INCLOSURES

1. Unit Organization
 - * ~~2. Unit Location~~
 - * ~~3. Unit Strengths~~
 - * ~~4. Awards & Decorations~~
 - * ~~5. Friendly Losses~~
 6. Operations Map
 7. Operational Results
 8. Aircraft Status
- *wd, Hq, DA


JOHN H. PHILLIPS
LTC, Armor
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 5 - Commanding Officer, 12th CAG
- 2 - CINCUSARPAC
- 3 - Commanding General, USARV
- 2 - Commanding General, 1st Avn Bde

AVGC-SC (15 Nov 68) 1st Ind (u)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (UIC-WAAMAA)


DA, HEADQUARTERS, 12TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, APO 96266 24 November 1968

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-RE-H, APO 96266

1. In compliance with AR 525-15 and USARV Regulation 525-15, two (2)
copies of subject report are forwarded.

2. Concur with all comments and recommendations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


ARTHUR M. MOUNTCASTLE
Captain, Infantry
Asst Adjutant

AVFBC-RE-H (15 Nov 68) 2nd Ind (u)
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968. RCS CSFOR - 65 (RI) (UIC-WAAMAA)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 11 DEC 1968

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBA-C, APO 96307


Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report-Lessons Learned of the 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry for the period ending 31 October 1968.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


O. B. FORY
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

AVBA-C (15 Nov 68) 3d Ind (4)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65(R1) (UIC-WAAMAA)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

DEC 15 1968

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

1. This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to be adequate,
and concurs with the contents as indorsed except for the following:

a. Section 2, paragraph 4, page 12. Nonconcur. The Cavalry Troop
is primarily an intelligence collection agency and does not have a re-
quirement for processing and evaluating information. The processing, evalua-
tion, and dissemination of intelligence is normally accomplished at Squadron
level or higher where intelligence specialists are assigned.

2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Section 2, paragraph 1(a), page 11. The Air Cavalry Troop TOE
17-98T is being modified and will add a wheel vehicle maintenance section.
Personnel proposed for this section include:

Motor Sergeant	E6	63C40	1
Whl Veh Mech	E4	63B20	3
Equip Record Clk	E4	71T20	1
Pwr Eq Opr/Mech	E4	52B20	1
Hvy Veh Drv	E4	64B20	1
Whl Veh Rpr App	E3	63A10	<u>1</u>
		TOTAL	8

b. Section 2, paragraph 1(b), page 11. The Air Cavalry Squadron
TOE 17-96T is being modified and will provide the following ammunition
personnel in the Squadron Supply Section:

Ammo Section Sgt	E5	55B20	1
Ammo Specialist	E4	55B20	2

DEC 15 1968

AVBA-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (UIC-WAAMAA)

Ammo Handler App	E3	55A10	5
Ammo Records Clk	E4	76M20	1


c. Section 2, paragraph 3, page 12. Aviators are assigned direct to Combat Aviation Groups by the USARV Officer Replacement Division. Recommend that USARV assign an equitable number of OH-6 qualified aviators to each group since each group has one Air Cavalry Squadron. It must be understood that this problem then can only be rectified by group headquarters who further allocates aviator assets to its subordinate units.

d. Section 2, paragraph 5a, page 13. Standardized MTOE's for the Air Cavalry Troops are being finalized at this time for submission to DA. Included in the new standardized MTOE's are CAR-15 rifles for each crew chief except crew chiefs in Troop Headquarters. With the approval of these standardized MTOE's the CAR-15 rifles will be authorized.

e. Section 2, paragraph 5b, page 13. This headquarters and the 34th GS Group are aware of the shortage of "Tail Rotor Tracking Kits" for the OH-6A. Ten kits are scheduled to arrive in-country during the month of December. Kits will be issued to those units authorized as they arrive.

f. Section 2, paragraph 5(d), page 13. The AN/VRC 24 radio sets are available in the 506th Field Depot. USAICCV has sufficient quantities and will release to the 3/17th Cav Sqdn on a hand carry, O2 priority as combat mission essential. FSN 5820-543-1977, LI Q50680. The 3/17th ACS is authorized 4 each, has 0 on hand. This headquarters has contacted the S-4 of the 3/17th ACS and informed him of what action to take.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


JOHN D. MIXSELL
MAJ, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (15 Nov 68) 4th Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (UIC-WAAMAA)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 4 JAN 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

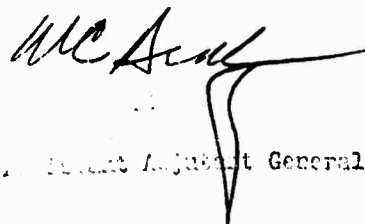
1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1968 from Headquarters, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning training, page 12, Section 2, paragraph 3 and 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2c: Concur with the 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2c. When qualified OH-6A aviator replacements become available, this headquarters will make equitable distribution to the aviation groups.

b. Reference item concerning the arrival of maintenance units in RVN improperly and inadequately equipped, page 13, Section 2, paragraph 5(c): Concur with the recommendation as stated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


Commanding General

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GPOP-DT (15 Nov 68) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 3d Sqdn, 17th Cav for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

28 JAN 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

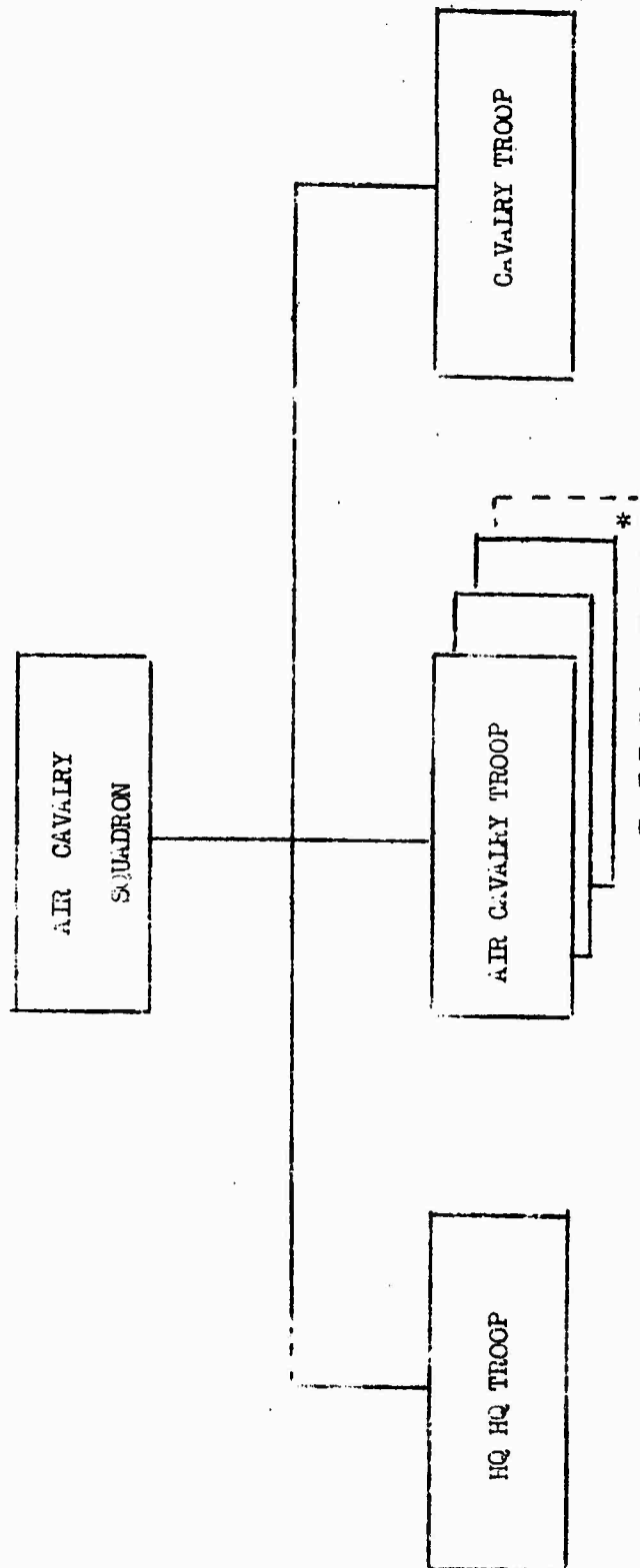


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 Oct 68

INCLOSURE 1, UNIT ORGANIZATION, QUARTERLY ORLL

INCLOSURE 1

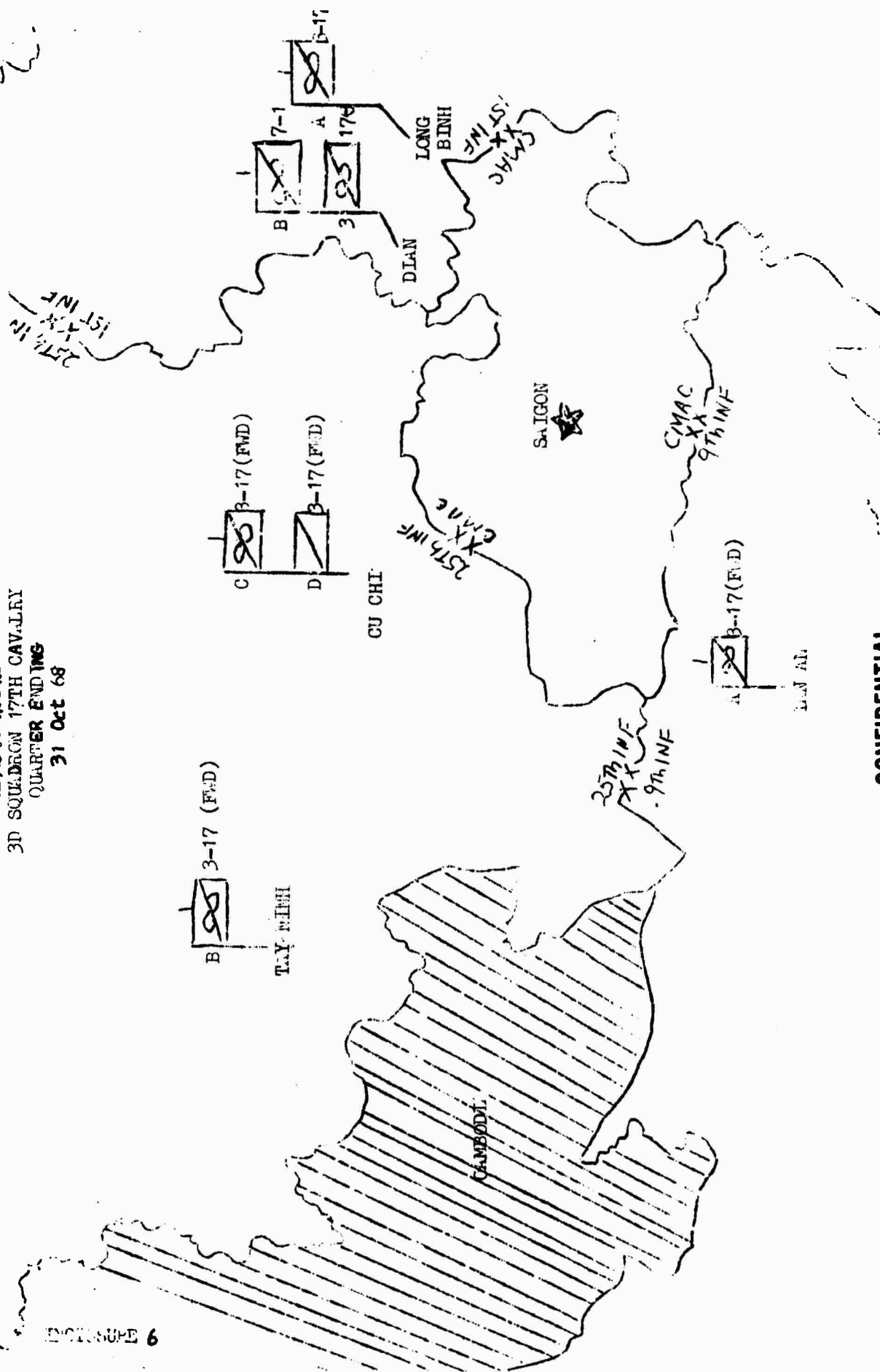


* ATTACHED ONLY B-7-1

ENCLOSURE 6

HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 Oct 68

ENCLOSURE 6



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HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 Oct 68

INCLOSURE 7, OPERATIONAL RESULTS, QUARTERLY ORLL

UNIT	Sorties Flown	Troops Lifted	Cargo Tons	Enemy KIA	Structures Dam	Sampans Dam	Aircraft Confirmed Strike	Aircraft Damaged
HQ Troop	3172	2411	24	0	0	0	0	0
A Troop	10488	4112	26	562	0	0	193	52
B Troop 3/17	5680	3179	2.5	153	49	3	26	16
C Troop	4826	1496	17.5	233	36	19	91	12
D Troop	0	0	0	24	0	0	12	0
B Troop 7/1	7186	2117	22	53	17	1	25	11
3/17 ACS	31352	13315	92	1025	102	23	347	91

Aircraft Loss and Damage:	Aircraft Damage:	OH6A - 33
A Troop	AH1G - 1, OH6A - 2,	UH1H - 3
		UH1C - 4
		AH1G - 12
B Troop	Aircraft Loss:	Aircraft Damage:
	AH1G - 2, OH6A - 2,	OH6A - 9
		AH1G - 7
C Troop	Aircraft Loss:	Aircraft Damage:
	OH6A - 5,	OH6A - 9
		AH1G - 3
B Troop 7/1	Aircraft Loss:	Aircraft Damage:
		OH6A - 7
		AH1G - 4

INCLOSURE 7

INCLOSURE 7

HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 Oct 68

INCLOSURE 8, AIRCRAFT STATUS, QUARTERLY ORLL

SUBORDINATE UNIT	UH1H AUTH O/H	OH6A AUTH O/H	AH1G AUTH O/H
HQ Troop	5 5	0 0	0 0
A Troop	8 6	10 10	9 9
B Troop 3/17	8 6	10 10	9 9
B Troop 7/1	8 6	10 10	9 9
C Troop	8 6	10 10	9 9
Sqdn Total	37 29	40 40	36 36

INCLOSURE 8

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

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(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)		
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		4
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CO, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry		
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